Tourist centres around Ganga river

†421. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up tourist centers at the places where the Ganga, the Jamuna and the Saraswati rivers pass through;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared any plan to conduct a study on these rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Depletion of ground water level

422. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level in various districts of the country has gone down thereby making the situation alarming;

(b) if so, the city-wise/State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Decline in ground water levels has been observed in various parts of the country in consultation the State Governments. As per the latest assessments of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States in 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas), 839 units are 'over-exploited' (where stage of ground water exploitation is more than 100% with significant decline in long term trend of ground water level in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both), 226 units are 'critical' (where ground water exploitation is between 90% and 100% with significant decline in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods). The State-wise details of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units are given in the Statedment *(See* below)

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take suitable action for arresting the declining ground water level in their respective States. However, based on the survey reports, some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for improvement of ground water level • in the country are:-

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.